

Key Concepts				<p><u>Jewish Festivals: Pesach (Passover) & Sukkot</u></p> <p>There are many festivals in the Jewish calendar. Most remember a great event in Jewish history. They provide an opportunity to build a relationship with God. They build Jewish identity as families and communities come together. Both the origins of the festivals and the actions carried out in the festivals are important for Jewish people today.</p>
Shekinah	The dwelling or divine presence of God often shown as a cloud.	Messiah	The promised deliverer of the Jewish nation. The word means ‘anointed one’	
Synagogue	A building or place of meeting for worship in the Jewish faith	Covenant	A promise or an agreement. Covenants were made between God, Abraham and Moses.	<p><u>Sources of Authority</u></p> <p>‘Then Moses called all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go and select lambs for yourselves and kill the Passover lamb.” Exodus</p> <p>“You shall dwell in sukkot seven days so that generations will know how the Israelites lived” Leviticus</p>
Shabbat (Sabbath)	The Jewish day of rest and seventh day of the week	Mitzvot	Actions that Jews must perform or avoid. There are 613 including the Ten Commandments	
Kosher	Means ‘clean’ or ‘fit’. It describes food that is okay to eat for Jewish people.	Torah	The Jewish written law and the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible	

Pesach (Passover)	Pesach is known as Passover . It recalls the time the Jewish people were saved by Moses from Egypt . Pesach recalls that the angel of death passed over Egypt killing every firstborn male, but not those of Jewish people. Pesach reminds Jewish people that they are God’s chosen people , and that he saved them. In preparation for this festival, the home is thoroughly cleaned. All chametz (food containing yeast or rising agents) is thrown out. Flat bread is the only bread eaten symbolising that the slaves who left Egypt were in such a rush that they did not have time for their bread to rise. The Seder meal is the most important event of the festival. Bitter herbs like horseradish help to remember the bitterness of slavery, salt water is used to remember the tears of the slaves, and charoset (a mix of apple, cinnamon, nut and wine) is used to symbolise the cement used in buildings by slaves.
Importance of Pesach (Passover)	Pesach (Passover) is important to Jews today because God commands Jewish people to celebrate Passover in the Torah , namely the book of Exodus which tells the story of the Jewish people escaping Egypt. Retelling the story ensures that the Jewish faith and religion are passed on. This means younger Jewish people will learn the important events from Jewish history and be able to pass these on to their children in the future. It reminds Jews today of those suffering from slavery and oppression . When they taste the bitter herbs on the Seder plate, they are able to think about the bitterness of slavery
Sukkot	Sukkot is the festival of tabernacles or booths (huts) . It is celebrated for eight days and is seen as a holiday period. The festival of Sukkot comes from the time when the early Jewish community were wandering in the wilderness after leaving the slavery of Egypt. Jewish people build tents and huts to represent the temporary shelters the early Jews used in the desert. There is an ancient tradition that a lulav (palm, myrtle and willow placed in a woven palm holder) and an Etrog (a type of citrus fruit) are waved in six directions showing God’s power is everywhere. The last day of Sukkot is a celebration of the Torah. On this day all of the Torah scrolls are taken out of the Ark, with much singing and dancing, and are paraded around the synagogue.
Importance of Sukkot	Sukkot is important because it commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert on their way to the Promised Land . It celebrates the way in which God protected them under difficult desert conditions for forty years. Jews are commanded to celebrate this festival in the Torah. The Torah is the written Jewish law that Jews must follow. Celebrating sukkot is one of the 613 mitzvot . The mitzvot are actions that Jews must perform or avoid so Jews are expected to celebrate this festival. It helps Jewish people connect with their ancestors . The word sukkot means ‘ hut ’ or ‘ booth ’ and every Jewish family will build an open air structure in which to live during the holiday.

<p><u>Exam Practice</u></p> <p>b) Describe the origin and meaning of Sukkot (5)</p>
--

